

Planning commission rejects Ramsey Homes redevelopment plan

City council to discuss 53-unit proposal Saturday

BY CHRIS TEALE

The planned demolition and redevelopment of Ramsey Homes hit a snag February 2, as the planning commission denied part of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's application by a 4-3 margin. City council will take up the proposal Saturday at its public hearing for further discussion and a final decision.



FILE PHOTO

Commissioners were critical of the process and particularly what they perceived as a lack of analysis on other alternatives beyond the one proposed by ARHA. A presentation

by city staff outlined two other options that had been analyzed on the city side, but deemed unfeasible by ARHA staff for financial reasons.

ARHA's plan proposes 53 multi-family residential units in two buildings, with a courtyard in the middle of the property. ARHA also requested an increase in floor area ratio to 2.0 and a rezoning of the property from a townhouse zone to mixed use.

That proposal would completely demolish the existing 15 units, which were built between 1941 and 1942

SEE **RAMSEY** | 6



FILE IMAGE

The Ramsey Homes (top), owned by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, sit at 699 N. Patrick St. and are slated for demolition and redevelopment. The 15-unit property was built between 1941 and 1942 by the federal government to house black defense workers. Under ARHA's plan, the Ramsey Homes would be transformed into two three-story buildings comprising 53 mixed-income residential units and a central courtyard (above). That plan took a hit February 2 as the planning commission rejected its Development Special Use Permit.

Bittersweet has been a fixture of Old Town since 1983, but owner Jody Manor announced Sunday he will close its current location at 823 King St. and move the eatery to its prior space on North Alfred Street.



PHOTO/CHRIS TEALE

Old Town institution Bittersweet to relocate

Owner Jody Manor believes city's relationship with small business at a critical juncture

BY CHRIS TEALE

The spate of small business closings in Alexandria continued Sunday as owner Jody Manor announced the closure of long-time Old Town cafe Bittersweet at its current location at 823 King St.

Open since 1983, the announcement does not mean the end for the cafe and catering company, which will relocate to its previous space at 103 N. Alfred St. and become a much smaller operation. Manor posted the news on Bittersweet's official Facebook page as well as in a letter to the editor printed in the Times.

Manor believes there is a wider problem in the city, given that so many small busi-

nesses recently have closed in the vicinity of King Street. He said City Hall has not helped matters.

"My prism is having grown up here and remembering what King Street was like in the 1960s and 1970s and 1980s when most of the retail was empty," he said in an interview. "I don't think that a lot of policies have been thought through in terms of their impact on our small business community, I don't think we've had a strong voice for a long time."

In a letter to city council, Manor warns that the city's reputation as a hard place to do business is deserved. He criticized the lengthy process to obtain an administrative special use permit, high taxes and fees and a lack of adequate parking policies and wayfind-

ing as just some of the reasons why the city is suffering.

"These anti-business practices clearly undermine our competitiveness when trying to attract new businesses," he wrote to council. "These issues are within your power to examine and should and need to be addressed post-haste."

Manor said simplifying the SUP process would make things easier for prospective small business owners, especially those who cannot necessarily afford to pay for an attorney to guide them through the process. It can also be filled with pitfalls, particularly when it comes to setting up in one of the city's historic districts.

"I think one of the greatest uncertainties that business

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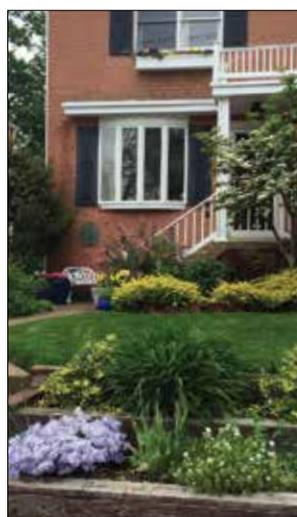


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THE WEEKLY BRIEFING

NAEA to open Old Town headquarters with artwork by ACPS students

The National Art Education Association will open its new headquarters at 901 Prince St. on February 18, with art on display by students in Alexandria City Public Schools.

Officials said NAEA's new studio has been designed as a multifunctional space to serve as the nonprofit's headquarters, a fully functional gallery designed to showcase art and an art making space for professional development of educators. It is all with the intent of showcasing what they call the essential value of visual arts education in the 21st century.

"We are living our mission,"

said Deborah Reeve, executive director of NAEA, in a statement. "We live in a visual age, and a foundation in art education has never been more critically important for students pursuing careers in any field. This exhibit and NAEA's presence in Alexandria will serve as a living, fully functional demonstration of why art education matters."

All of the art on display will express the theme of "transition" and will encompass the entire spectrum of art media including computer design, painting, drawing and written reflection among others. The artwork in the exhibition has

been selected by art educators throughout the school system and represents student work at all grade levels.

"Our partnership with NAEA in producing this exhibition not only highlights the work of our students on a national stage, but it is a vivid example of how our students are learning through creating art," said Andrew Watson, an ACPS fine arts instructional specialist, in a statement.

The NAEA was founded in 1947 and is the leading professional membership organization for visual arts education.

- Chris Teale

City commission for women seeks nominations for Salute to Women Awards

The Alexandria Commission for Women announced last week that it is seeking nominations for women, men and young people who have made a significant impact on women and girls in Alexandria.

Winners will be honored at the commission's 36th Annual Salute to Women Awards banquet. The event will take place at 6 p.m. on March 28 at the

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Proceeds from the event support the Alexandria Sexual Assault Center.

Winners will be recognized for their achievements in several areas, including health and safety, legislative advocacy, leadership, artistic endeavors, business and career development, and providing opportunities for youth.

All nominations must be submitted to the city department of community and human services by the close of business on February 26.

Nomination forms are available online. For a copy of the form or further information, contact Ellen Lamm at 703-746-3132 or ellen.lamm@alexandriava.gov.

- Chris Teale

City to hold open houses on arts and culture plan

The city office of the arts announced Tuesday that it would host a series of open houses and town halls from February 23 through February 27 for residents to offer input on the development of a citywide arts and culture plan.

The goal is to create a long-term plan that better capitalizes on existing resources to make Alexandria's rich arts and culture sector stronger, more accessible and more sustainable. Officials say the plan will allow the city to better integrate

arts and culture into other policy areas, including education, economic development, public safety, public health, youth activities, human services, housing, parks and open spaces.

The office of the arts is working with consultants The Cultural Planning Group in developing the citywide plan. The process is designed to be inclusive and engage residents, visitors and other sectors of the community to help local government identify cultural resources, needs and opportu-

nities and think strategically about how these resources can help a community to achieve its civic goals.

For a list of open house dates, times and locations, visit www.alexandriava.gov/87578. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, Attention: Diane Ruggiero, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria, VA 22314, or by e-mail to diane.ruggiero@alexandriava.gov.

- Chris Teale

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CRIME

Alexandria police promote two new deputy chiefs

Alexandria police announced earlier this month the promotion of two captains to the rank of deputy chief. Deputy chiefs Chris Wemple III and Shahram Ford will command the police's operations support bureau and patrol operations bureau, respectively.



Chris Wemple III

Shahram Ford

"I have complete confidence that these two deputy chiefs will help lead the Alexandria Police Department to even greater successes in the future," said Police Chief Earl Cook in a statement.

Wemple joined the department in 1991, and he has

worked in all four of the department's bureaus throughout his career. He was most recently the commander of the patrol support division, where he also served as liaison to city council and oversaw the community policing section and police training unit.

Fard has served with the APD since 1995. During his tenure, he worked in the K-9 unit with his partner "Dino" and coordinated a number of post-9/11 projects in the special operations division. As a commander, he led the vice-narcotics section, as patrol division commander for the West End, and most recently was commander of the criminal investigations division. Fard is also a designated incident commander and represents the agency on the National Capital Region's incident management team.

- Chris Teale

Police investigating felonious assault near Holmes Run Park

The Alexandria Police Department said it is investigating a felonious assault on the 100 block of S. Jenkins St. that took place early Sunday morning.

Officers responded to the area on the West End near Holmes Run Park after re-

ports of an encounter between two people. Police spokeswoman Ashley Hildebrandt said they knew each other, and that officers were unsure on the exact nature of the incident between them.

Hildebrandt added that both

the victim and suspect have been interviewed by the authorities.

Anyone with further information about this incident is asked to call the department's non-emergency number at 703-746-4444.

- Chris Teale

POLICE BEAT

The following incidents occurred between February 10 and February 17.



*Editor's note: Police reports are not considered public information in Virginia. The Alexandria Police Department is not required to supply the public at large with detailed information on criminal cases.

Source: raidsonline.com

Legislation could limit infrastructure fixes

Councilors fear slippery slope on local control of land use

BY ERICH WAGNER

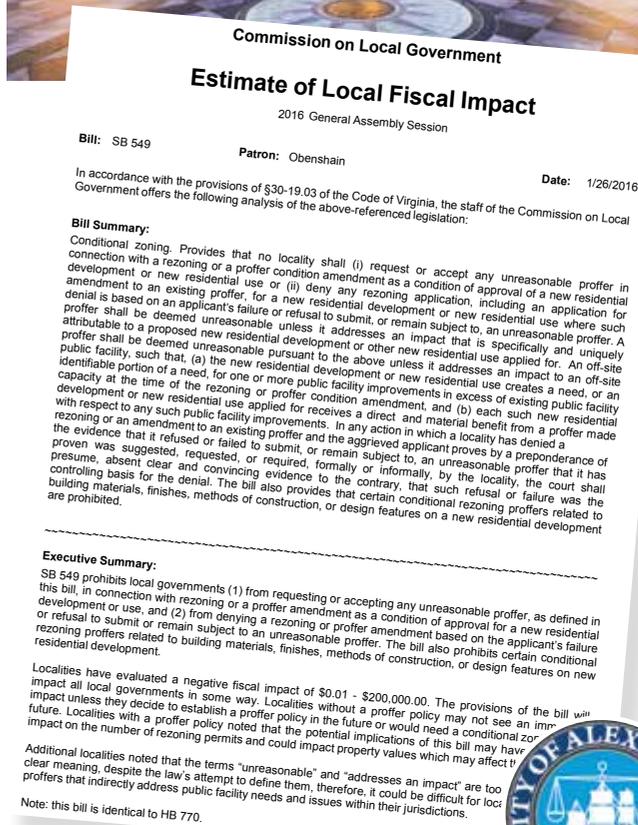
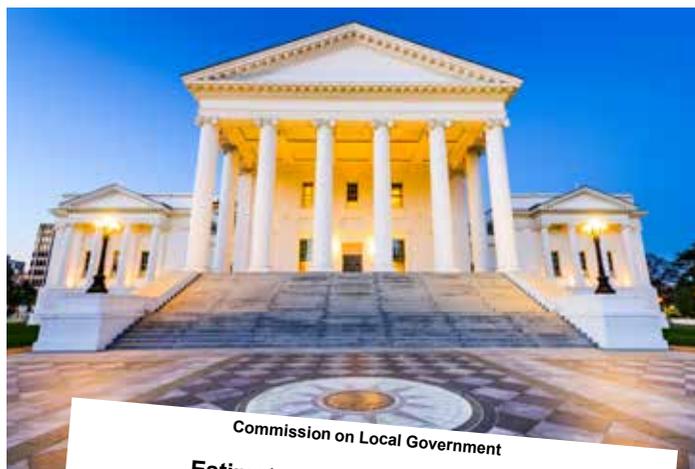
Affordable housing and infrastructure aid guidelines may be restricted in some localities under bills rolling through the Virginia General Assembly, which have Alexandria officials worried.

Senate Bill 549 and House Bill 770 would remove local governments' authority to "request or accept any unreasonable proffer in connection with a rezoning or ... as a condition of approval of a new residential development." Proffers are promises by a developer or property owner to make infrastructure improvements or make contributions to other services like affordable housing.

The state Senate passed its version of the bill last week, while the House of Delegates passed a similar version February 4. Although the bills as currently drafted would not affect Alexandria — it restricts proffers in the rezoning process, while the city primarily encounters them in special use permits — city leaders fear the measure would set a dangerous precedent of the statehouse usurping City Hall.

Bernie Caton, the city's top lobbyist in Richmond, said as originally composed, the bill would have affected one aspect of setting requirements for developments that the city does employ: construction materials.

"The way it was crafted, it also said that you could not use anything to affect the way a building is designed or the materials used," Caton told city councilors last week. "I worked with Sen. [Dick] Saslaw (D-35) to get that out of the bill, and it has



come out. ... It also says the proffer must address an impact specifically attributable to the new residential development."

City councilors said they were relieved that the proposal did not affect Alexandria's ability to employ proffers, but said they are worried about the prospect of efforts to further erode local control over zoning issues.

"Are any local communities supporting this?" asked City Councilor Paul Smedberg.

"Some are fighting more

than others, and some have just pushed to have the parts that affect them most taken out," Caton said.

Smedberg then asked if the measures could be a sign of things to come.

"When we talked about this in the legislative subcommittee, wasn't there concern that something more comprehensive than this, something that includes [development

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RAMSEY FROM | 1

by the federal government to house black defense workers. City staff also presented options to save either one or two of the buildings, rehabilitate them and build additional units on the site.

The commission denied the

project's development special use permit, but approved a master plan amendment and rezoning needed for the project. But commissioners struggled with what they viewed as a lack of proper analysis on all options, including a full rehabilitation of the existing units at 699 N. Patrick St.

"The question is: is it wrong to study it? Is it wrong to explore these things?" asked planning commissioner Stewart Dunn. "Is it so important to move ahead now that we would not do any further study? That's the issue, not what it's going to be."

Dunn was critical of the com-

mission's decision to grant a master plan amendment for the property and the rezoning, something he said was impossible given that commissioners needed more of an idea

of what was going to happen.

Dunn abstained from those votes and was one of the four votes against the development special use permit.

"To me, it's really not sound planning to recommend a zoning amendment," he said. "For us to pass this when we don't know why we're passing it, what the purpose is, seems to me unsound."

The five-hour hearing saw a variety of opinions and featured several residents arguing that the proposed development was not in keeping with the rest of the Parker-Gray Historic District. In addition, several people noted the need for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district is in the National Register of Historic Places, and under Section 106, officials must engage in a rigorous historic preservation process.

"The past is something that we believe is simply being ignored," said Elliott Bell-Krasner, vice-chairman of the Alexandria Historic Resources Commission. "These homes are historically significant [and] they are architecturally significant in that we believe they are the only ones left that exhibit pre-cast concrete."

"The Alexandria historic districts are about holding onto old fashioned, low-density living, specifically in the face of contrary economic forces," said David Lawrence. "It's a great thing."

Local development attorney Duncan Blair, representing ARHA, said the applicant had already undertaken plenty of in-depth historical study and would continue to do so after the project's approval, in keeping with Section 106 requirements.

Several others said moving



FILE PHOTO

forward was inappropriate since there is pending litigation in Alexandria Circuit Court challenging city council's decision to allow demolition

at the site.

"Should the court reverse the decision of council, this plan will be illegal," said resident Elaine Johnston. "Should the court remand the matter to city council and ask them to reconsider, their decision at that time would be prejudged by having already approved this plan requiring demolition."

Assistant city attorney Joanna Anderson noted that the commission and council legally could still proceed on this application as it is contingent on demolition. A status conference was held on the case February 8, and a non-jury trial is currently scheduled for August 22.

Residents also raised concerns about the plan increasing density in the neighborhood, as well as an apparent lack of open space on the site for use by all members of the community. Charkenka Walker, the only current resident of Ramsey Homes to testify, said the units are in poor condition, making ARHA's proposal necessary.

"The units are old," she said. "Think of an aging person. When you get old, you don't walk as good as you used to, you don't climb stairs as good as you used to, your mechanisms begin to change. The same thing is happening inside of these units, they are falling apart. [It's] not solely because of ARHA's neglect, but because of the age, because of the materials that were initially used."

The commission's decision is merely advisory, so council could still approve the DSUP and allow ARHA to proceed with its current proposal. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for Saturday at City Hall, where ARHA officials said they would welcome further discussion.



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- Bill Reagan,
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BITTERSWEET FROM | 1

owners have in the process of opening their business is the multiple hurdles that they have to go through in particular districts with the Board of Architectural Review and then the planning commission and then city council,” said Bill Reagan, executive director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center. “If those can be handled through an administrative process that doesn’t require each of those hurdles, it would make it a much more manageable process for the business owner. In most cases, there would be no intrusion on the neighborhoods.”

City councilors have discussed simplifying the process, and it was something that dominated talk on the campaign trail last year. Vice Mayor Justin Wilson said expanding the administrative SUP process, which gives city staff a constant criteria to make approvals, could help speed things up.

“The goal is that you have clarity around what we expect out of businesses that we’re representing what the community’s concerns are about a potential business but we’re also giving the business owner predictability through

the process,” he said.

Manor said the business community lacks a strong voice at City Hall when it comes to shaping policies, although things have improved in recent times thanks to the work of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and other groups. Chamber CEO Joe Haggerty said the organization has numerous representatives on city commissions, while Wilson added that he has daily discussions with business owners outside of scheduled public forums.

To become more business friendly, Manor advocated for reform on business tax rates. He said paying significant amounts in meal tax, business property tax and the Business, Professional and Occupational License tax can be too much to ask, especially BPOL. That tax is on a business’ gross revenue, and reform was not only discussed locally but continues to be an issue in Richmond at the Virginia General Assembly.

Wilson said action at the state level would be helpful, but there are things Alexandria can do to help lessen the BPOL burden.

“My argument has always been to be strategic,” he said. “Let’s pick the industries that

we believe are most representative of where we’re going to see growth in the city, and those are the industries that we should provide strategic tax incentives to try to make Alexandria the best place for those businesses to operate.”

Haggerty said the chamber’s small business tax force’s recommendations from a few years ago are being re-examined.

Manor cited the upcoming waterfront redevelopment as key to help grow the city’s small business community. Discussions are ongoing on interim uses for Fitzgerald Square, the proposed public space at the foot of King Street to replace the Old Dominion Boat Club’s clubhouse, and Manor sees great opportunity by the Potomac River.

“Right now I’m trying to increase awareness of what’s at stake and get more people involved in the process,” he said. “Council’s going to get a recommendation on how we attract visitors from the MGM casino, and the waterfront commission is going to make a recommendation on waterfront governance, and I think those two things will be instructional for me in terms of how I continue my civic activities to support the business community.”

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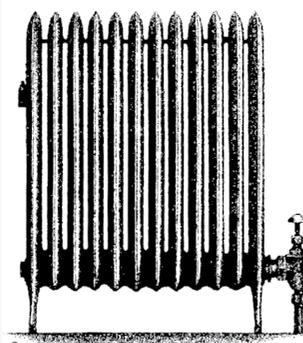
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OVER THE LINE

NEWS FROM GREATER ALEXANDRIA | BY CHRIS TEALE

Thomas Jefferson HS students secure finals spot in National Science Bowl

Thomas Jefferson High School's science bowl team secured its 15th straight spot in the finals of the National Science Bowl after winning the Virginia state competition earlier this month.

The five-member team went undefeated through a series of round-robin morning matches and double-elimination matches in the afternoon on February 6. Langley High School of McLean finished second, Princess Ann High School in Virginia Beach came third, while Stuart High

School in Falls Church took fourth. A total of 18 teams competed from across the commonwealth.

The competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, and Jefferson enters the final having finished second in last year's national competition. That second-place finish meant the team won a five-day, fully guided adventure tour of several national parks.

"The National Science



Bowl continues to be one of the premier academic competitions across the country, and prepares America's students for future successes in some of the world's fastest growing fields in research and engineering," said U.S.

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in a statement. "I am honored to congratulate all of the competitors who are advancing to the national finals, where they will continue to showcase their talents as top students in math and science."

The National Science Bowl brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-paced question-and-

answer format quiz game, where they solve technical problems and answer questions on a range of science disciplines including biology, chemistry, Earth and space science, physics and math.

The finals will be held in Washington, D.C. from April 28 to May 2. The top 16 high school teams and the top 16 middle school teams in the national finals will win \$1,000 for their schools' science departments. Prizes for the top two high school teams will be announced at a later date.

Suspect sought by police after burglary on Richmond Highway



Detectives at the Mount Vernon Police District of the Fairfax County Police Department are investigating a commercial burglary that occurred in the Central Super Mercado at 6222 Richmond Highway on December 31, 2015.

At around 8:30 p.m., a man forced his way into the store,

took merchandise and left, police said. Approximately two hours later, the man re-entered the store and took more items. Surveillance video captured images of the suspect.

Police asked that anyone who recognizes the suspect contact Detective Melissa Wallace at 703-619-4308.

Police investigate two armed robberies in 15 minutes along Richmond Highway

Two businesses along the Richmond Highway corridor of U.S. Route 1 in Fairfax County were hit by armed robberies within 15 minutes of each other on February 3, and police now are looking for two male suspects.

The first robbery was reported at the 7-Eleven at 8226 Russell Road at 11:18 p.m. Police said two men entered the store; one displayed a handgun and demanded money while the other allegedly acted as a lookout. An undisclosed amount of cash was handed over and there

were no injuries, police said.

The second robbery was reported at the Denny's Restaurant at 7214 Richmond Highway at 11:33 p.m. Two men entered the restaurant and one displayed a handgun, police said. One suspect took an undisclosed amount of cash from the business and from customers, while the second suspect took additional cash from another area in the business, police said. There were no injuries.

Police said in both cases, the suspects were described as being between 20 and 30

years old. One was about 5-feet-8 inches tall and around 160 pounds, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and a mask. The second suspect was about 5-feet-6 inches tall and around 150 pounds, wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and a mask.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, by texting "TIP187" plus your message to 274637, by calling 1-866-411-8477, or by calling the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131.

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SPORTS

T.C. Williams inducts second athletic hall of fame class

Five athletes, 'Remember the Titans' coaches honored

BY CHRIS TEALE

It was a night of celebration February 12 at T.C. Williams, as the school inducted more former athletes and coaches into its athletics hall of fame at a glitzy ceremony.

Five former Titan athletes were formally installed, while

school officials granted honorary inductions to former football coaches Herman Boone, Bill Yoast and Glenn Furman, who rose to prominence with the 1971 state championship-winning team immortalized in the Walt Disney movie "Remember the Titans." Furman went on to be head coach in 1982, and won two state cham-



PHOTO/CHRIS TEALE

Former Titans football coaches (from left) Bill Yoast, Glenn Furman and Herman Boone share a laugh at the T.C. Williams athletic hall of fame induction February 12.





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pionships of his own.

Former T.C. football player and 2001 graduate Sgt. DeForest "Dee" Talbert was honored posthumously, having been the first Alexandrian to die in the war in Iraq in 2004. Talbert's family collected the award on his behalf, continuing a tradition of commemorating the West Virginia State University graduate's life.

Each year, members of his former regiment host a motorcycle ride in his honor from West Virginia to T.C. Williams. They also raised money for Talbert's son, DeAnte, to help fund his education. Talbert was 22 when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by a roadside bomb.

Michael Casey, John Kemper, Ratcliff Thomas and siblings Clark and Kelly Mercer were the former athletes inducted. All played a variety of sports at T.C. before going on to different careers.

Kemper, a member of the class of 1964 at the former George Washington High School who went on to a career

“Back then, when we played football games, we drew 10,000 or 12,000 people a game. Friday nights, the whole city of Alexandria went to football games.”

- John Kemper, T.C. Williams athletic hall of fame inductee

in engineering and construction, remembered how important sports were to the community when he was a teenager. He played football, basketball and baseball at the school.

"Sports were the foundation of the city," Kemper said. "Back then, when we played football games, we drew 10,000 or 12,000 people a game. Friday nights, the whole city of Alexandria went to football games.

All that excitement around that, the buzz around the city was all around athletics and they're great memories."

Another former basketball player to be inducted was Casey, who went on to play professionally in Venezuela after graduating from the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Casey, who has since returned to Alexandria, noted how important his time was at T.C., especially given his deep family ties to the city stretching back several generations.

"Classes were great, the teachers pushed you and I made a lot of friends," Casey said. "Sports was just an outlet, but education was the key, and if you came out of T.C. Williams and out of an Alexandria school, you could make it anywhere."

Clark Mercer was a goalkeeper on the Titans soccer team and also competed in football and indoor track. Despite several individual honors, including district and regional

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player of the year and a stint as indoor track captain, he remembers the time he spent with his teammates most of all.

“It’s funny, I don’t necessarily remember specific game scores or wins and losses,” he said. “I remember more than anything just the experience of bonding with teammates and playing soccer, such a team sport, and football as well. You work really hard, and those are both team sports, so I wouldn’t be here if we hadn’t done well and had really good coaches.”

His older sister, Kelly, graduated from T.C. in 1992 having won five state titles across her junior and senior years on the track. She went on to run for Georgetown University and is now an oncologist at the University of Virginia Hospital. Kelly Mercer said her time at T.C.

taught her many life lessons.

“I think honestly the track team is one of my strongest memories,” she said. “I ran pretty much year-round, I ran cross country, indoor and outdoor, and the friends I had and the coaches I had and those experiences have really stuck with me throughout my life and really taught me a lot about perseverance, determination and hard work and loyalty. Those are things that I’ve tried to remember as I’ve gotten older.”

After graduating from T.C., Thomas went on to play football at the University of Maryland and then professionally from 1998-2001 for the Indianapolis Colts of the NFL. The former linebacker said his time as a Titan prepared him well for the competition of playing at the next levels.

“We had so many talented teams and every day you had to come to practice and compete,”

Thomas said. “If you didn’t, you’d definitely get embarrassed. That competitiveness instilled a drive in me, and made it easier as I left T.C. Actually going to college, I was prepared to play because I competed against great guys every day.”

Nominations to the hall of fame are garnered from the com-

munity, with the Alexandria City School Board’s hall of fame committee then deciding on which individuals are inducted. School board member Bill Campbell, who sits on the committee, said the institution is about far more than just athletic prowess.

“With as large a school as we have and all the athletic pro-

grams, there have been some incredible athletes,” Campbell said. “But we’re really trying to emphasize the well-rounded person that T.C. develops not only in terms of athletics, but absolutely college contributions and then we really put a lot of emphasis on that contribution after college.”

T.C. Williams announces new football coach

T.C. Williams announced last week that it appointed James Longerbeam as its new football coach, the Titans’ second in as many seasons. Longerbeam replaces Marc Matthie, who was head coach for 2015.

Longbeam arrives at T.C. from Bay High School in Panama City, Fla. He led the team to an 8-3 record last season and a Bay County championship, and was named 2015 Panhandle Coach of the Year. He arrives at a Titans program that went 2-8 last season.

“T.C. has a long and important history of athletic success and our football team is particularly important to us as it has helped to give T.C. its reputation,” said athletic director Steve Colantuoni in a statement. “We are very excited to welcome Coach Longerbeam and hope he will be very happy with us. We wish him every success.”

At Bay High School, Longerbeam was the third coach in four years and the team had not had a winning season since 2004. Prior to Bay, he coached at Loris High School in Loris, S.C., which had not had a winning season in more than a decade. By his

fourth season, they had back-to-back winning seasons, made the playoffs and were district runners-up.

“My coaching philosophy is building the program from the bottom up,” said Longerbeam in a statement. “I believe in establishing relationships with local leagues, middle school feeder programs as well as at the high school level. My firm belief is that players have to work constantly to get bigger, faster and stronger. However, while I want our students to succeed out on the field, they have to be students first.”

- Chris Teale



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WORD ON THE STREET

DEALS, DRINKS AND FUN ACROSS ALEXANDRIA

BY ABIGAIL JURK

Everyone is waiting for spring to come, but with Monday's snow, it seems like we will have to wait a little bit longer. As we wait for winter to end, there are a many places to go to stay inside and keep warm.

WHAT'S NEW

Old Town welcomed a new addition this month. Hank's Pasta Bar, affiliated with the Old Town favorite Hank's Oyster Bar, opened its doors February 3.

Owner Jamie Leeds and chef Nicolas Flores have combined classic Italian flavors with a modern ambience. The new restaurant offers 15 types of pasta, in addition to a full dinner menu. All pastas are handmade from scratch. Gnocchi, ravioli and spaghetti are just a few of the many options available.



COURTESY PHOTO

Leeds recommends the linguini with white clam sauce. The restaurant also features Italian favorites, such as risotto, meatballs and cheese plates. For those looking for a heavier fare, fresh fish, steaks and lamb chops are available.

Dinner prices range from

\$16 to \$32. Diners can enjoy a craft cocktail with their meal, or one of the more than 50 bottles of wine Hank's has to offer. In addition to the regular menu, Hank's will also offer Aperitivo Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, which will feature discounts on snacks and drinks.

The restaurant and lounge are welcoming, with floor-to-ceiling reclaimed barn doors and a marble-topped bar. This makes for a casual but classy ambience both for dinner and to hang out with friends for a cocktail.

Restaurant officials said Hank's plans to add outdoor seating when the weather thaws. Hank's Pasta Bar is located at 600 Montgomery St. and is open daily beginning at 4 p.m. The restaurant plans to add lunch and brunch service to its repertoire soon.

WHAT'S THE DEAL

If you're looking for somewhere to go to have a drink and a bite with friends after work, or if you just want a new happy hour option, consider The Overwood at 220 N. Lee St. The Overwood offers happy hour from 3 to 7 p.m. on weekdays.

During this time, The Overwood features select wines for \$1 off list prices, in addition to \$3 beers on draft and a selection of \$5 appetizers, including oysters, brisket sliders, hot dogs and more. The Overwood has a comfortable and warm feel and is only a few



COURTESY PHOTOS

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Snap happy:

Wedding photography no longer just for one photographer

BY CHRIS TEALE

In the past, wedding photography was relatively straightforward. On the day itself, the married couple would assemble for a series of photographs with the wedding party, the film would be sent away to be developed and then return later on in a physical album to be saved for posterity.

But in recent years, the role of the wedding photographer has evolved so that they do not just take formal photos, but are often asked to take more candid shots during the celebration, often of more than just the wedded couple. These are now more than just capturing the happy couple and their guests, but about capturing moments during the day that depict the joyous occasion.

Meanwhile, guests become photographers in their own right thanks to the proliferation of smartphones with powerful cameras, social media and selfie sticks, which add a whole new dimension to the wedding experience.

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BRIDAL

FROM | 13

Even as photography started to grow in importance in the late 19th century, it was only in the 1880s when having a photographer at a wedding to produce an album of photographs began to be more common. The equipment was very bulky and pictures were hard to light effectively, so until that point a couple might pose for a photo before or after their ceremony as opposed to during.

But as the technology improved, a wedding photographer became more common, and it gradually became the

norm to include photographs of other guests and even sometimes the gifts they had brought the married couple.

After World War II, the idea of capturing the whole event of a wedding started to take hold, brought on in part by the so-called “wedding boom” that took place at the end of hostilities. Cameras were far more portable at this point with a compact flashbulb, so photographers could be far more creative and not be tied down by bulky gear.

In the 1970s, things changed again thanks in part to the rise in disposable and instant cameras and of video

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recorders that allowed the whole event to be documented with relative ease. Guests could thus take their own photos over the course of the entire event, and while the official photographer would still be present, there was a definite shift away from relying on one person.

Perhaps the evolution of smartphones and their widespread use is a natural extension of the disposable cameras that were found on tables at the wedding reception, except now guests do not have to wait to have film developed. The widespread use of such technology for photography and other

parts of the wedding day have led some couples to have an unplugged wedding, where everyone is instructed to leave their electronic gadgets behind and simply enjoy each other's company.

Today, the traditional approach to wedding photos is still prevalent, while a more photojournalistic approach is in widespread use too. Often, photographers use a hybrid approach between those two, reflecting a desire by many couples to have a traditional aspect, but keep a more modern feel.

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BRIDAL

FROM | 15

In the photojournalistic approach, the guests become almost as important as the marrying couple, as they are snapped sipping champagne, laughing at a toast or tucking in to wedding cake. These candid moments are captured with the photographer blending seamlessly into the background of the occasion.

Beyond that, there is plenty of room for customization. At some wedding receptions, guests might be invited to delve into a box filled with props like false moustaches, oversized glasses and Venetian-style face masks, all for posing in whacky photos in a portable photo booth. With the growth of time-lapse photography, guests can show their personalities even more by playing to the camera and seeing multiple photos taken in a sequence.

Meanwhile, more offbeat weddings are celebrated as ceremonies, receptions

and all other facets of the celebration become highly personalized. And while eloping isn't exactly a new phenomenon, having a photographer on hand to document the moment is becoming more prevalent.

And it is not only the wedding day itself that plays host to professional

photography. More and more, couples are having engagement photos taken, celebrating the fact that they are soon to be married.

With the continued growth of smartphones, social media and accompanying technology, the days of one collection of photographs from a wedding

may well be over. Now, guests have the freedom to document the event as they see fit without being reliant on a professional to capture every single moment.

And while unplugged weddings may continue to be popular among those who wish to eschew technology, things will never be the same again.

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Fuddruckers burger restaurant to have new tenant

Neighboring Fresenius Medical Care to expand into former Duke Street space

BY CHRIS TEALE

The long-vacant building at 4141 Duke St. will go from providing burgers and fries to potentially life-saving medical care.

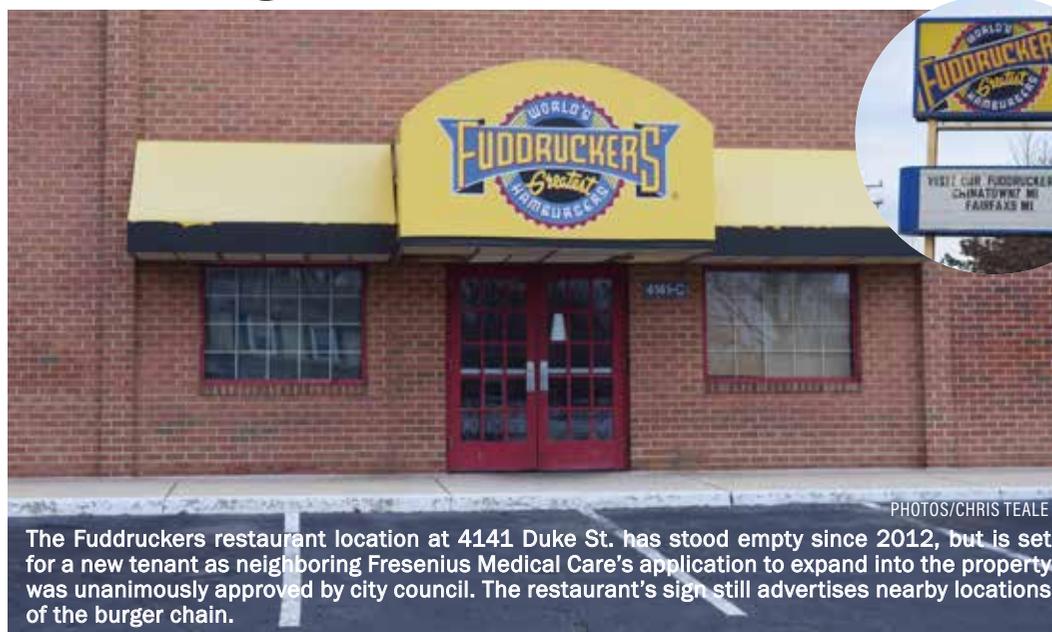
Fresenius Medical Care will absorb the neighboring former Fuddruckers restaurant space on the West End after earning city council's unanimous approval on January 30. The medical clinic specializes in kidney dialysis and has operated in the city since 1973, moving to its current location in 1991.

The expansion will give Fresenius an extra 7,338 square feet, allowing it to treat an estimated 200 patients a week in a total space of 19,630 square feet, according to a report filed by city staff.

Since its closure in 2012, the former eatery has sat empty, albeit with its signage still visible and advertising other locations. Fuddruckers is a franchised chain that specializes in hamburgers. According to its website, it has more than 180 locations in the United States and internationally, including in Canada, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Mexico and Poland.

But residents in the nearby Seminary Hill and Strawberry Hill neighborhoods protested the loss of restaurant space in the area. At an earlier hearing on the project, resident Peter Glock noted the space is zoned Commercial/Community, not for medical use. Fresenius operates as a non-complying use on the property.

"It seems to me to set a dangerous precedent in the city, that if you could hold off on getting a tenant for a couple of years, you could effectively rezone," Glock said at the planning commission's January 5 public hearing. Glock argued allowing the expansion would "fundamentally change the



PHOTOS/CHRIS TEALE
The Fuddruckers restaurant location at 4141 Duke St. has stood empty since 2012, but is set for a new tenant as neighboring Fresenius Medical Care's application to expand into the property was unanimously approved by city council. The restaurant's sign still advertises nearby locations of the burger chain.

“I'd love to have a restaurant there myself, but that doesn't look like that's going to be happening. It's not cheap to have a property like that just sitting there; that is why I made the motion for approval. I understand why neighbors might feel that they want a restaurant, but it's a huge area.”

- City Councilor Del Pepper

commercial options in our neighborhood.”

Glock accused property owners Greentree Partners LLC of failing to advertise the vacancy effectively, given that Fuddruckers signage remains visible on the highly-

trafficked Duke Street.

“There is no ‘Now Leasing’ sign or ‘Space Available’ sign or phone number on the building,” he said. “The Fuddruckers sign has remained up for the past two, two-and-a-half years indicating other locations to go to a Fuddruckers. There has never been a ‘Now for Lease’ [message] or a phone number for an

available space there.”

Alex Dambach, division chief in the department of planning and zoning, said while he did not know the details of the property owner's marketing strategy, he knew it was being promoted to potential tenants.

At city council's public hearing, City Councilor Del Pepper said while she understood the

desire for a restaurant, the property owner could not leave it vacant forever.

“I'd love to have a restaurant there myself, but that doesn't look like that's going to be happening,” she said. “It's not cheap to have a property like that just sitting there; that is why I made the motion for approval. I understand why neighbors might feel that they want a restaurant, but it's a huge area.”

Pepper and City Councilor John Chapman both spoke of their desire to improve the building's frontage on Duke Street, and Chapman also favored utilizing the property's 114 parking spaces in partnership with other businesses.

Ann Horowitz, a planner in the department of planning and zoning, said the applicant agreed to examine the landscaping, while Fresenius' director of operations for the location, Debbie Simmons,

SEE **FRESENIUS** | 21

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SCENE AROUND TOWN

'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in winter



PHOTOS/TERESA WOOD

The Folger Theatre's production of Shakespeare's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is an excellent portrayal of a romp through time and ephemeral space. Puck (Erin Weaver) and Oberon (Eric Hissom, top right) stand out, as do the more modernly dressed players in the play within a play (bottom right).

An excellent take on the classic play springs to life at Folger Theatre

BY JORDAN WRIGHT

Aaron Posner's brilliantly funny take on "A Midsummer Night's Dream," now playing at the Folger Theatre, is a delightfully frothy romp into Shakespeare's dreamscape of sprites and lovers. His imaginative interpretation is filled with hilarious surprises, beginning with the indelibly adorable Erin Weaver as Puck, who sets the tone for the high jinks to follow.

In this telling of the dream excursion, Puck and her devious cohorts take us down a garden path speckled with modern technology, the occasional rap lyric, music looping by Puck's forest calls and a vintage microphone for announcing the action.

But all is not shape-shifted into the modern age. There is still the play-within-a-play of Pyramus and Thisbe put on by Peter Quince (Richard Ruiz), a bumbling impresario and his eclectic band of schoolgirls in uniforms and headphones to entertain the royal couple.

Also still in the play is Hippolyta as an African queen, played by Caroline Stephanie Clay, who doubles as Titania. Hippolyta's husband, Theseus, joins her in a slick tan suit as the Duke of Athens, played by Eric Hissom, doing double duty in the role of the fairy king, Oberon. Reality as fantasy in a switcheroo delivers all the hilarity The Bard intended.

To bring you up to speed, Hermia (Betsy Mugavero) and Lysander (Adam Wesley Brown) are madly in love, while Helena (Kim Wong) pines for Demetrius (Desmond Bing), who spurns her amorous attentions. When Oberon and Puck get up to magic and mischief by drugging the lovers with a love potion concocted of flower juice, here delivered by an eyedropper, all hell ensues as the four confuse their intendeds with the others' lovers and the lusty Titania snuggles up with Bottom.

Holly Twyford plays Bottom, whom Puck turns into an ass adored by the love drug-smitten Titania. Costume designer Devon Painter interprets



the beast with furry platform hooves and a feathery confection of donkey ears, and Twyford plays it to the hilt with her comedic timing and buck-toothed braying.

Scenic designer Paige Hathaway puts the performers on a simple stage of treehouses and platforms lit by fairy lights and a cut-out crescent moon, while choreographer Erika Chong Shuch softens the falls and

fight scenes with a cluster of large blue pillows, throwing in a pas de deux by tango between Hermia and Lysander and a conga line for the lovers. Original music by Andre Pluess has Lysander serenading Hermia on ukulele.

There is some nifty scene stealing by the Jamaican-accented and 'voguing' skills of Monique Robinson as Snout and the hilarious whispery de-

livery of the ingenue schoolgirl Megan Graves as both Snug and Philostrate, but look for Weaver and Twyford to dominate this brilliant all-star cast.

Through March 6 at the Folger Theatre at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 E. Capitol St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. For tickets and information call 202-544-7077 or visit www.folger.edu/theatre.

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To have your event considered for our calendar listings, please email events@alextimes.com

February 20

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL USE OF METAL DETECTORS Mark Michael Ludlow, Ph.D. student at the School of Archaeology, History and Anthropology at the University of Wales and AMDA certified metal detectorist, attempts to de-mystify the technology and machinery involved in metal detecting and demonstrate the effectiveness of using hobbyist metal detectorists in archaeological projects.
Time: 10 a.m. to noon
Location: Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.
Information: 703-746-4399 or www.alexandriarchaeology.org

CURATOR'S TOUR: JOHN CARLYLE AND SLAVERY Join a specialized tour discussing the lives of the enslaved individuals who lived and worked at Carlyle House. The tour will be led by the curator of education and will last about an hour. Tickets for the general public are \$10 and \$5 for Friends of Carlyle House.
Time: 1 to 2 p.m.
Location: Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.
Information: 703-5449-2997 or carlyle@nvrpa.org

February 26

FAMILY FUN NIGHT Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more.
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.
Location: Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St.
Information: 703-746-5435 or ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov

February 27

CIVIL WAR RECRUITING DAY Members of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Co. K, will introduce visitors to the clothing, equipment and variety of military and civilian interpretive roles that encompass the field of Civil War living history.
Time: 1 to 4 p.m.
Location: Fort Ward Museum & His-

toric Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road
Information: 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org

GEORGE WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM An annual event held on George Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on his life. This year's theme is "From Relics to Repositories: Preserving George Washington's Legacy Yesterday and Today." Speakers include Carol Borchert Cadou, Martha Custis Peter and Timothy K. Winkle.
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive
Information: www.washington-birthday.net

ANNUAL BIRTHDAY GALA A black tie celebration of George Washington's birthday, starting with a reception and followed by entertainment in the Memorial Theater before a banquet at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$125, reservations required.
Time: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Location: George Washington National Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive
Information: www.washington-birthday.net

February 28

WONDERS OF SCIENCE Visit the apothecary and discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used and if they worked. During these hour-long tours, Project Enlightenment, McLean High School's historical-reenactment society, will conduct 18th century scientific demonstrations which are certain to expand visitors' knowledge about science in the 1700s. Tickets cost \$6 per person.
Time: 1 to 4 p.m.
Location: Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.
Information: 703-746-3852

March 4

HISTORIC BEER DINNER Join a culinary adventure with period-inspired food and beverage! Partnered with Yards Brewery and Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, enjoy a four course dinner that will be fun, educational and delectable. Tickets cost \$85 per person.
Time: 7 to 10 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: 703-746-4242

March 5

DOCENT-LED TOUR OF FRIENDSHIP FIREHOUSE MUSEUM Come for an in-depth guided tour of the Friendship Firehouse Museum and learn about the company's firefighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community.
Time: 11 a.m. to noon

Location: Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.
Information: 703-746-4994

LEARN HOW TO USE MEDIATION TO RESOLVE CONFLICT The Alexandria Library and the Northern Virginia Mediation Service will co-sponsor a panel of trained mediators to explore conflict resolution through mediation. Admission is free.
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St.
Information: 703-746-1728 or www.alexandria.lib.va.us

March 6

WOMEN'S HISTORY TOUR In honor of Women's History Month, tours of Gadsby's Tavern Museum will highlight the many roles women played in tavern life — from owners to enslaved workers and overnight guests to event participants.
Time: 1 to 4 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: 703-746-4242 or gadsbys.tavern@alexandriava.gov

WINTER WARMER LADIES TEA Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts while you sip John Gadsby's special blend of tea or take a cup of American Heritage Chocolate. Historic guest Rebecca Ramsey Reese will catch you up on the latest Alexandria news during the tea. Admission costs \$35 per person.
Time: 3 to 5 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: shop.alexandriava.gov

March 11

FAMILY FUN NIGHT Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more.
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.
Location: Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St.
Information: 703-746-5435 or ralph.baird@alexandriava.gov

March 11-April 10

ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL ART EXHIBIT Convergence presents a joint art effort between Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes and T.C. Williams high school. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative pursuits of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from each of the four schools have collaborated in what they hope will be an annual event.
Time: Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane
Information: 703-998-6260

March 12

GENERATION TO GENERATION GALA Senior Services of Alexandria hosts its annual Generation to Generation Gala. Two local families will be honored for their work with seniors, and SSA will present its first ever Service Award.
Time: 6 to 11 p.m.
Location: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road
Information: 703-836-4414 or www.seniorservicesalex.org

March 19

BEST BIB AND TUCKER MARDI GRAS BALL Doc Scantlin and Chou Chou return for the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society's second annual Best Bib and Tucker Mardi Gras

Ball. The event includes dancing, food and an auction to benefit the museum.
Time: 7 to 11 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: www.gadsbystavern-museum.us

March 20

PRESIDENTIAL SALON WITH JAMES MADISON The date is March 20, 1816. Join President James Madison, as presented by John Douglas Hall, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum for this ongoing series of presidential salons for discussion of the topics of the day.
Time: 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.
Information: 703-746-4242 or www.gadsbystavern.org

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At Home

New home, new landscape: Where do you start?



PHOTO/MARTY ROSS

You don't have to try to do the whole property at once. Landscape architect Sally Wittkofski designed this garden walk and small fountain for a traditional brick home in Richmond, Va. It's only a part of the garden. The walk is lined with boxwoods, and the view is framed by tall crape myrtle trees. Hydrangeas are planted behind the fountain. It's a simple design, executed with confidence.

BY MARTY ROSS

If you've recently moved into a new home, the world outside your windows is waiting. It's time to tackle the garden.

Turning a piece of property into a garden that reflects your style and meets your needs is quite a project, whether your home is a brand-new place on an empty lot or an established home with a patchwork of landscaping going back through a succession of previous owners. Either way, the possibilities are unlimited. The first step is to give yourself permission to dream a little.

"Look at your property and ask yourself what your long-

term goals are," says Cheri Marie Stringer, a landscape designer and owner of TLC Gardens in Longmont, Colorado. General goals are fine, she says. You might want a lawn for the kids to play on or a patio for entertaining. That's a good start. But perhaps you're also thinking of a sheltered place to sit outside, a small vegetable garden or a flower garden that welcomes you home when you pull into the driveway.

Stringer most often works with clients who want to renovate an existing landscape. "When I meet with them, they're trying to work around

what's there instead of imagining how it could be completely different," she says. "They can't see what it could be."

On an empty lot around a new home, there are no distractions, so it may seem easier to imagine your new garden, but the process is the same, Stringer says. Figuring out what you want comes first. She guides her clients from an initial list of goals to a list of priorities; the two won't always coincide. Then, working with both lists, she helps clients envision developing their garden one step

SEE **LANDSCAPE** | 21

— HOME OF THE WEEK —

An urban oasis in uptown Alexandria

This home in the uptown part of the city offers glimpses of country living with its double lot.

The gated entry and tall fencing give privacy to the large brick patio, perfect for grilling. Mature plantings abound. The storage shed abuts parking in the rear for two or more cars. A short walk to either of two metros may be your preference. Or take the free trolley to the waterfront, though cafes, shops, hotels and restaurants are a few blocks away. Nearby biking trails are an additional benefit.

Inside, the custom-designed kitchen from the mid-20th century offers an island with double sink, numerous wooden cabinets and table space. The

southern exposure gives natural light to the spacious dining room and comfortable living room with a wood-burning fireplace. Upstairs, one will find the laundry, three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

And on the third level, there

are two more bedrooms and another bathroom. For additional storage, the well-lit basement also has a cellar entry. And lest it be forgotten, a historical plaque adds to the uniqueness of this home, dating from the early 19th century.



PHOTOS/JUDY MILLER

Character and charm abide so close to Metro within Alexandria's urban ambiance. An extensive garden (left) awaits you behind this beautiful house.

At a Glance:

Location: 115 N. Payne St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314
Price: \$1,297,500

Lot size: 3,680 square feet

Bedrooms: 5

Bathrooms: 3 with ceramic tile

Parking: 2 off-street

Contact: Judy Miller,

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

PenFed Realty,

703-408-0552 (m), 703-836-1464 (o)



PHOTO/DAVID WINGER PHOTOGRAPHY/TLC GARDENS

This is a “before” picture. Landscape designer Cheri Stringer designed this garden in Colorado, working with her clients to develop a list of goals and priorities. “People always wonder, ‘How do I tackle this? It seems so huge,’” she says. The answer is: Take it in steps.

LANDSCAPE FROM | 20

at a time.

Working with a garden-design professional helps even if you’re an experienced gardener. It’s less about digging holes and planting things here and there, and more about coming up with a coherent plan for a beautiful and inviting garden. Sally Wittkofski, a landscape architect and owner of SWW Landscape Design in Richmond, Virginia, goes through the same process with her clients in the rolling terrain and relatively mild climate of the mid-Atlantic area that Stringer does in the Rocky Mountains and high plains of the West. “Don’t be afraid to start,” she tells them. “Starting is the hard part.”

Wittkofski suggests shopping for ideas in the pages of magazines and on websites such as Pinterest or Houzz. When something appeals to you, she says, “ask yourself why you like it, what draws you to it?”

Working with a designer will help you develop your own style, so it is important to try to find the right professional, and to be willing to listen to the voice of experience. You could order a pallet of rocks from the local stone yard and lay a patio yourself in one weekend, but having a conversation with a designer before you start will help you make some crucial decisions about the location and shape and size of the patio, and about whether stone or bricks or



PHOTO/DAVID WINGER PHOTOGRAPHY/TLC GARDENS

This is an “after” picture. The clients wanted a modern landscape to match the style of their home, and they wanted the design to flow gracefully from one area to the next. Stringer chose plants for their hardiness and drought resistance, but she didn’t compromise on style. A great garden design will set your new home apart.

pavers are the right choice for your site and your needs. After talking with a designer, you may decide to hire them and their crew to build the patio, or they may give you the encouragement you need to do it yourself, with the assurance that the results will be satisfying.

Professionals are familiar with local codes and covenants. Designers or their contractors can help you address drainage issues and can level uneven ground where necessary. They are also adept at looking at the overall picture of your property and helping you decide where you can save and where you should splurge.

Whether you do all the work on your own or collaborate with a professional, dividing the project into phases helps make it more approachable and more affordable. If your budget is generous, you may only have a couple of major phases, the front yard and the backyard, for example. To spread the work and the expense out, you could divide your garden plans into eight phases, based on your list of priorities. This year, you can put in a patio, or build some raised beds for a vegetable garden and plant a couple of trees. You’ll find yourself, and your garden, making satisfying progress as time goes on.

PROFFERS FROM | 5

special use permits] and SUPs could come back next year after they got this first piece?” Smedberg said.

Vice Mayor Justin Wilson echoed that concern, despite efforts by lawmakers to make the legislation more palatable for localities.

“It’s pretty frustrating,” Wilson said. “While I appreciate the effort to make this less painful than it could be, we do land use, not the General Assembly. I think this sets a really, really bad precedent, and if folks down there in Richmond want to do land use, they can run to be on their City Council or board of supervisors.

“As was noted, this is probably a step to something else in the future. I know when we talk to residents, we never hear that we need less authority over land use in the city.”

Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30) said he voted against the measure primarily because of its effect on Fairfax County, but agreed that it could mean Alexandria and other similar cities could have a similar fight on their hands in future years.

“What is clear is that Fairfax would be hurt, because it’s just taking away

“It’s pretty frustrating. While I appreciate the effort to make this less painful than it could be, we do land use, not the General Assembly. I think this sets a really, really bad precedent, and if folks down there in Richmond want to do land use, they can run to be on their city council or board of supervisors.”

- Vice Mayor Justin Wilson

local control of a negotiating tool, and I remain concerned about the taking away of local governments negotiating tools with developers,” Ebbin said. “I am sympathetic to the developers when they talk about what it’s cost them in Prince William and Loudoun counties, but I am also sympathetic and concerned about my localities.”

FRESENIUS FROM | 17

said different parking options could be explored.

“We don’t use a lot of the parking spaces we have now, because a lot of our patients are transported,” she said. “Not too many dialysis patients drive, so a lot of them use medical transport.”

In their deliberations, planning commissioners asked if the area will be discussed as part of a master plan process in the near future, given the lack of zoning cogency in the area.

“This particular section of Duke Street has, in my judgment, about all of the zoning co-

herence of Houston, Texas,” said commissioner David Brown. “That’s not a compliment. We have single-family residences hard by commercial.”

But city planning director Karl Moritz said that any discussions must go hand-in-hand with the expansion of high-capacity transit, since Duke Street is slated to host the second of three proposed bus rapid transit corridors, along with the area near U.S. Route 1 and Beauregard and Van Dorn streets. Moritz said any new master plan covering the Duke Street area would likely not take place for at least another five years.

Our View

ARHA missed a golden opportunity for compromise

When the Times' editorial board last visited the issue of how to provide 53 units of affordable housing at the site of the Ramsey Homes in the Parker-Gray neighborhood, the best word to describe the discussion was "frustration."

Neighbors were frustrated by the proposal to tear down the historic buildings, built during World War II by the federal government to house black defense employees. Residents of the current buildings were frustrated by their poor state of repair. And officials were frustrated with an approval process that City Councilor Justin Wilson described as "absolutely absurd."

Last September, city council approved demolition of the 15 current units at Ramsey Homes, contingent upon the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which owns the property, returning to officials for approval of a site plan before beginning any work. And some city councilors urged ARHA to explore preserving and renovating at least some of the original structures.

But in the last five months, not much has changed. The project will head back to city council Saturday, again proposing to demolish all of the original buildings. It again is weighed down by a denial recommendation from a city advisory board, this time from the planning commission. And the study of alternative options remains hazy at best.

City staff studied two other options that would allow for some preservation of current buildings, which would have resulted in totals of 29 and 39 units, respectively. But according to the staff report on the proposal provided to the planning commission, "after some productive initial collaboration, ARHA's board directed its staff not to participate further in exploring and creating the various development options and instead elected to proceed with the three-story, 53-unit proposal previously provided for concept review."

The result of ARHA backing out of this discussion is that we don't know how much more expensive it would be to pursue those options, except to take them at their word that they would be unfeasible.

To put it bluntly, this is unacceptable.

Affordable housing is sorely needed in Alexandria, and having only 15 dilapidated units at the site of the Ramsey Homes surely is an ineffective use of space and is unfair to the residents who live there. But the property is a historic landmark, and neighbors and historic preservation advocates need a seat in the discussions too.

For ARHA to pull its staff from discussions with city officials who are working to find a compromise between these competing interests isn't just a show of bad faith. It's the equivalent of a child taking away their ball and going home.

City council should refuse to approve any plans regarding how to move forward with Ramsey Homes until ARHA comes back to the table with city staff. They must work together to examine the alternatives so staff, officials and residents can see a full accounting of the costs associated with those proposals.

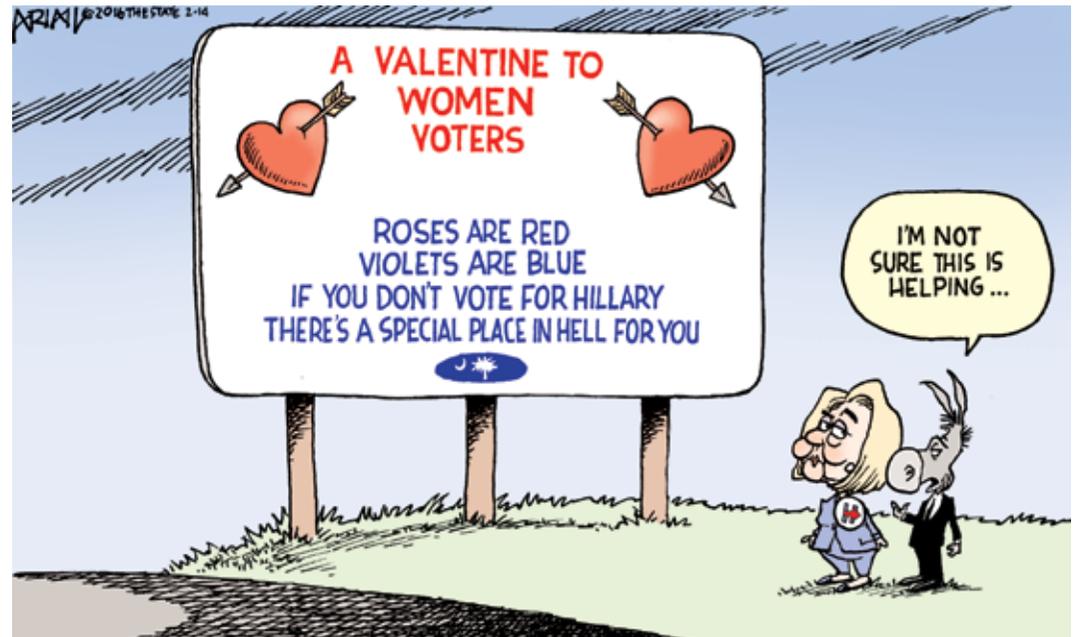
Once that is done, leaders may reach the conclusion that it is, indeed, not cost effective to preserve any of the current structures. But that decision needs to be done openly, not quietly by only one of the interested parties.

To do any less would be, to borrow from Wilson again, "decision-making that's unworthy" of Alexandria.

Opinion

"Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

Old Town retail is facing a troubling period

To the editor:

Curzon Antiques, Urban Angler, Ladyburg Bath and Body Boutique, Yogi Castle, Hannelore's, Imperfections!, J Brown, Le Star, Cove Office, Pure Prana, Why Not?, Old Town Tea and Spice, European Country Living, Decorium, Trojan Antiques, Candy's Candy, The Virginia Shop and now my very own Bittersweet.

Take a look at the list of businesses along and near our Main Street — King Street — that have recently closed or announced their closing. These were taxpaying businesses with customers, employees, landlords and important parts of the fabric of our city — and a reason to visit our city. Their owners were also contributors to an enormous number of local charities. Their collective sudden loss should be a wake up call.

While there are many reasons for this spate of business closings, one cannot deny the changing nature of retail. With 17 blocks of

retail space from the waterfront to the King Street Metro station, we are challenged, and if we are to preserve the economic vibrancy of our historic core, it is time to examine what the city can do to reverse this trend.

As a longtime local business owner, I can tell you that our regional reputation as a difficult place to do business is well deserved. An arduous, lengthy and often arbitrary approval process, which is not well known or well explained to new businesses, high license and permit fees, numerous taxes, regulatory minutiae, business unfriendly parking policies and an inadequate wayfinding program are at the heart of this. These anti-business practices clearly undermine our competitiveness when trying to attract new businesses. Our leaders need to examine and address these issues.

In this day and age of increased competition from online sales, we can no longer rest on

our laurels as a historic colonial city that the world's largest online bookseller deems the United States' most romantic. We must take a hard look at placemaking, beautification and better maintenance of our streetscape.

We need to employ better coordination and deployment of historic resources between city departments, increased programming and utilization of our parks and public spaces, and examine our very restrictive special events policies. Our waterfront plan needs to be fully implemented without further delay.

As part of that, the Torpedo Factory Art Center should be refreshed so that it appeals to local families and millennials as well as visitors — and begins generating tax revenue for the city rather than being subsidized by the taxpayer.

Yes, if we want our retail core to survive, we need to attract

A neighbor's perspective on lights at Parker-Gray Stadium

To the editor:

Enough. With regard to the recent letters that strongly support the installation of lights at the T.C. Williams sports field, I ask: Would you subject your spouse, your kids, your parents and grandparents to a loud-speaker so obnoxiously loud that you have to give your kids earplugs to sleep? Would you subject them to 80- and 90-foot light poles seven feet from their property line, with light so bright that they can read by it at night? Make them get out the next morning and pick up beer cans and other trash deposited on the lawn the night before? And repeat this scenario four and five times a week, all year long?

After all, that football team from Maryland that uses T.C.'s field during the summer needs a place to play. And we can't limit it to football, right? People have to play soccer and other sports at night too. And just for good measure, throw in at least a 25 percent drop in

their property values.

Would anyone really subject their own spouse, kids, parents, grandparents, friends or family to this night after night for years to come? The answer is "no." No one would ever do such a thing to their loved ones, friends or family. Never. Not in a million years.

But you are so willing to do just that to your very own neighbors, to my family and I. I coached little league baseball here for years. I coached youth basketball at Francis Hammond Middle School and Cora Kelly Elementary School. I stood on the sideline of the Sunday morning soccer games, cheering on the kids down on Eisenhower Avenue.

I shop around town. I go to a local church. I'm a neighbor and member of the community. You'd think those so in favor of lights would take a nominal look at what this issue is doing to their neighbors and community and say, "Wait a

minute, no one should have to put up with this. Ever. Goodness, imagine what it would be like if it happened to me or my neighborhood."

Of course, the response from the pro-lights movement is always, "It won't be so bad." Well, my neighborhood already is living through this scenario and our experience is, "Yes, it's that bad. This goes way beyond bad, and we don't want to have to live through this night after night for the rest of our lives, thank you."

We are the same neighbors who bought our homes because of the promise that the city made to us — and even wrote down and codified in a development special use permit for good measure. The same neighbors whom you will ask to pay for the lights through our real estate taxes, all so that you can watch football games on

SEE LIGHTS | 24

A better choice for the city stadium

To the editor:

Last month, the Alexandria Times published an editorial suggesting an outside-the-box process was necessary to avoid a collision between Seminary Hill residents and city officials about installing lights on the field at T.C. Williams ("Our View: Outside the box thinking is needed to avoid collision over T.C. lights," January 14). I applaud the Times editorial board's effort to take a stand on this issue and suggest a resolution to the issue.

The editorial articulated that a new stadium is absolutely necessary to advance our community sports needs. Rather than redoing a rag tag stadium complex at T.C. Williams High school, the Times article suggests that officials consider a new stadium in a

less central and more commercial location like the Eisenhower Valley, which would make the field more accessible to fans and less disruptive to neighborhoods.

While I agree with the essence of that idea, I have a better solution — an ultimately less expensive and more financially rewarding alternative. If we truly want to relive the Titan experience, if the project is truly about Friday night lights and school sports, then the stadium needs to be built at George Washington Middle School for the following reasons.

George Washington is currently in disrepair and needs to be modernized or rebuilt, so why not make it a package deal — renovate the school as necessary and build a stadium and a track to coexist with the

school. The Titans played at the original Parker-Gray Stadium, which was located at George Washington, not T.C. Williams, so this alternative is doable.

From a business point of view, imagine the impact this stadium would have on businesses in Del Ray. Imagine thousands of spectators trekking down the one-mile corridor of Mount Vernon Avenue to celebrate the Titans' victories at Fireflies, Los Tios, or other restaurants and shops. No longer is the only meal choice Atlantis, McDonald's or Subway at Brandlee Shopping Center.

While businesses are leaving Old Town, Del Ray and the area around West Street would flourish. Plus, the area around the field is heavily commercial

SEE STADIUM | 24



Senior Corner

by Rhonda L. Williams

Does Northern Virginia have the answer to seniors' hospital access?

There are times when a person may require intensive periods of hospitalization in order to reduce the symptoms of an illness and help them return to improved health and functioning. This is true regardless of whether their symptoms are of a physical nature, a mental illness or severe cognitive disorder with behavioral problems.

Older adults that are experiencing exacerbated symptoms often require longer periods of hospitalization than younger adults due to their metabolism and complex system changes of both physical and mental systems. This makes diagnosis and treatment critical with older adults.

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services released a study on two state hospitals that currently handle a majority of the commonwealth's older adults needing intensive treatment. Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, where residents of Northern Virginia are treated, and Catawba Hospital are both very old structures that have had deferred maintenance needs due to budget challenges.

They provide 257 beds, but require an estimated \$9 million to address the deferred maintenance needs. The department recommended two options: Keep the two hospitals open, or close Catawba in the next two years, close Piedmont by 2018 and construct a 56-bed wing at Western State Hospital.

The challenge is how to go from more than 250 inpatient beds that are always full to only 56? What will this mean for older adults needing more intensive treatment to allow them to live in community based settings? The state recommends more commu-

nity based programs need to be explored and utilized.

The problem is those with severe symptoms like physical agitation cannot be cared for in less restrictive environments due to the risk to other residents. Once symptoms are managed by hospital care, the Regional Adult Facilities and Treatment program is a successful model that has been used in the Northern Virginia region for the past eight years.

RAFT consists of an intensive mental health treatment team that partners with nursing homes and assisted living facilities to provide intensive services to older adults with serious mental illness or dementia with behav-

ioral problems in the community. RAFT received rave reviews from state licensure regarding the program's successful work with 43 older adults now living in facilities closer to home who were being treated with therapy, medication management, art therapy and behavioral interventions that keep their symptoms in check.

The RAFT program also provides psycho-education to the facility staff. This grant-funded program is a proven and viable option. If the state needs to consider how to best use funds to serve older adults with mental illness or dementia with behavioral problems, as well as figure out how to reduce the number of beds for older adults across the state to 57, then the community needs to call for an increase in funding spent to provide alternative models of care.

The writer is the supervisor of older adult mental health at the division of aging and adult services in the city department of community and human services.



Rhonda L. Williams

RETAIL FROM | 22

more people here — people who want to shop, dine, attend events and put tax revenue in our city's coffers while keeping our locally owned businesses in operation.

At a time when there are so many demands of our municipal budget, including the long overdue overhaul of City Hall, it's time to start thinking about how to create a dynamic economy for

the modern world while retaining our colonial charm.

Besides running a business in the heart of Old Town for the past 33 years, my prism is my recollection as a young boy of the many empty retail spaces along King Street in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Let's not make the mistake of thinking this cannot happen again.

- Jody Manor
Owner, Bittersweet

LIGHTS FROM | 23

Friday nights and play soccer and other sports whenever you want? And what if you are wrong? Will you then take the lights out? I didn't think so.

Now, you clearly see where I'm coming from. You would be adamantly against these lights if they were put seven feet from your yard. You would never subject your spouse, kids, friends, family and community to this ordeal. But the "good neighbors" who live near T.C. Williams are fair game.

But karma being what it is, you have a good chance of ex-

periencing the same thing in the future. You see, once the city rezones my neighborhood in order to put these lights in on 80- and 90-foot poles, how will it be able to justify not doing the same thing to the neighborhoods around Bishop Ireton, Episcopal and Hammond? I could go on and on, but I think you catch my drift.

So, for those still in favor of lights at the T.C. Williams football field after reading my appeal, I'll see you at the meetings. I'll bring my kid's earplugs. You can try them on.

- Frank Bires
Alexandria

STADIUM FROM | 23

and Metro accessible, making the site a perfect location, while a parking garage could be constructed for additional parking. The cost of this venture would be borne by expanded private partnerships with local businesses and investors, as it could be viewed as a business project not a school project.

In return for city contracts, developers would build and help finance the project. Sponsorship signs could be erected around the field to acknowledge the generosity of these sponsors and investors. Such signs would be readily seen from the nearby Metro station and surrounding buildings.

Even better, the \$6 million earmarked for the T.C. stadium could be funneled back to the schools to hire more teachers, improve academic performance and raise teachers' salaries.

Finally, the athletic field at T. C. Williams then could be a site for expansion, and the construction of more classrooms and school space would enable the city to plan for enrollment increases. The above plan is viable and can be successful.

The placement of a stadium at George Washington Middle School would be a less expensive alternative. As it evolves, it would stimulate business in Del Ray. There is no business boom at T.C. Williams. The need for a city stadium will be forever addressed and it will be located in the proper historic place, the real Parker-Gray Stadium area. Residents, before we spend \$320,000 of your tax dollars allotted for a T.C. Williams stadium design, we should discuss placing the Parker-Gray Stadium project at George Washington Middle School.

- William Goff
Alexandria

Chinquapin Park pool would benefit many

To the editor:

In the February 11 edition of the Times, you present two different positions on the same issue: a very positive article about the city's plan to fund the replacement of the Warwick Pool ("Warwick Pool vote goes swimmingly") and then an editorial saying that the city shouldn't fund a new 50-meter swimming pool at Chinquapin Park ("Council should apply a business model to government spending decisions"). It's hard to argue both sides of an issue and maintain credibility.

Your editorial acknowledges that there is merit to a new pool at Chinquapin but that other projects need the funds more. You further state that the city should not be funding a swimming pool and that instead the project should be undertaken by a public-private partnership or it should be paid for in full by a nonprofit organization.

As a matter of fact, the Chinquapin project began as a public-private partnership three years ago. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics — a group of residents interested in improving aquatics options in Alexandria — has been working with city staff and city council since day one of this project. The city's 10-year capital budget over the last three years has reflected the need for and the expectation of private sector funding to complete the project. The city and the private sector already are doing what you recommend.

Last year, the Times reported that the new pool at Chinquapin was "dead in the water" because the cost estimate from the city consultants suddenly

ballooned from \$20 million to \$30 million. AAA agreed that the new \$30 million price tag was unreasonable, and immediately got to work with city officials and their consultant to find ways to reduce the cost of the new pool.

As presented to city council on February 9, the consultant's final report shows that the new pool can be built for the budgeted amount of about \$22 million, which again includes private sector funds. This represents an \$8 million reduction in the expected cost.

Nevertheless, your editorial board still questions the need for the city to build the pool. Here are some facts that make the case for it:

- A consultant's report estimates that the current pool at Chinquapin is only meeting 20 percent of the public need. That means that 80 percent of the residents' needs are not being met.
- Without more pool space, we cannot provide swimming instruction to all children in Alexandria. This is one of our key goals for having the new pools — to make sure that all of our children have the opportunity to learn a necessary life skill. To use your "air, water and food" analogy, learning to swim is both air and water.
- Our local high school teams cannot hold their home swim meets in Alexandria because the pool at Chinquapin is not regulation size. They must be bussed to Fairfax County and other jurisdictions to host their "home" meets at rented facilities, and in some cases, to hold prac-

tices. Earlier this year, when the annual all-city swim meet between T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, Episcopal and Bishop Ireton was being planned, there was serious consideration given to holding the meet at a pool in Arlington because of Chinquapin's inadequacies.

- The new pool will benefit Alexandria residents, from newborns to octogenarians. Swimming for fitness, recreation or therapy can be done by any age group. Indeed, the additional pool planned for Chinquapin will open the opportunity for a wide array of new therapeutic programs to be offered in the existing pool, which will have a warmer water temperature than the 50-meter pool.
- Because there is only one indoor pool in Alexandria, there are continual conflicts between groups seeking more space with none being satisfied with the existing situation. Both city staff and city councilors are well aware of this situation.

Recreation is one of the basic services expected from a city government, in addition to schools, sewers and the like. Are those next on the list of items that should be funded by nonprofits or the private sector?

We believe that the public-private partnership model for building a new pool at Chinquapin is a prudent and responsible way for the city to address the longstanding neglect of its aquatics facilities and the needs of its citizens.

- William Rivers
Chairman, Advocates for
Alexandria Aquatics

Ramsey Homes proposal is full of contradictions

To the editor:

I would like to share my opinion on the disturbing development proposal of Ramsey Homes. The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority's current plan to replace the existing Ramsey Homes in the Park-

er-Gray neighborhood is disturbingly full of contradictions.

Firstly, the parking solution ARHA has presented cannot possibly work. The entrance and exit for the underground garage ARHA wants to build would be located in a narrow

residential alley, one that cannot accommodate the turning radius of a Toyota Camry, let alone larger vehicles. Does ARHA really expect every single driver who enters and exits the garage to back up and make

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

An occupied city and the misfortunes of war

After four years of war and the Union occupation of Alexandria, news that the war had ended with Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox in April 1865 was received by Alexandrians with a mixture of relief and joy, disbelief and sadness. The economic and social costs of the war were huge, and most residents must have known that life in the city was changed forever, meaning a blend of huge challenges and major opportunities.

Alexander Hunter, who left school with so many of his classmates to fight in the 17th Virginia Infantry, recalled Lee's own words to him immediately following the surrender. "Your first duty," Lee told him, "is to go home and make your mother's heart glad, and your next is to Virginia. She needs all her sons more now than ever." Hunter also wrote that Lee urged his former soldiers to "commence a new life and be good citizens."

Judith McGuire, whose husband had been Hunter's principal at Episcopal High School, was more despairing.

"I only feel that we have no country, no government, no future," she wrote. "The Northern officials offer free tickets to persons returning to their homes — alas! To their homes! How few of us have homes! Some are confiscated; others destroyed."

Those feelings of gloom that April were added to by the stunning news of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Alexandria Gazette editor Ed-

gar Snowden reported that, "the rumor was at first discredited. No one believed that such an awful tragedy did or could happen...As the particulars became known, men gathered in groups — heard with wonder and amazement — and expressed their indignation. Nothing else was thought of or talked of."

Occupation had been a mixed blessing for Alexandria; the city avoided destruction



PHOTO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

from actual fighting, but its economy and commercial infrastructure suffered nevertheless. It has been estimated that as many as a third of residents left town before and during the war, some never to return.

Many of the homes, businesses and other private property, such as James Green's Mansion House Hotel seen here, of known or suspected "secessionists" had been seized by the army, often on the questionable basis of unpaid taxes by their absentee owners, and were then sold after the war.

Countering this population loss was the now permanent settlement in the city of many Contrabands: former slaves who had streamed into Alexandria by the thousands soon after the war began and now made up

approximately half of the city's population as free citizens. Joining the pre-war communities of The Bottoms, Hayti, and Fishtown were new African-American neighborhoods called Petersburg (later simply "The Berg"), Uptown, The Hill, The Hump and Cross Canal.

Many businesses remained shuttered, including some of Alexandria's largest enterprises such as the Mount Vernon cotton mill, the Pioneer Mill and the Smith & Perkins foundry right next door. Port and rail facilities and equipment had been used hard by the Army, and the Alexandria Canal needed extensive repairs.

Alexandria had become the seat of the Restored Government of Virginia in late 1863, made up of those portions of the state under Union control. Gov. Francis Pierpont and the 13 members of the General Assembly met in the city's council chambers, working on a new state constitution that abolished slavery and denied the vote to former Confederates until they swore allegiance to the federal government.

Under President Andrew Johnson's Reconstruction plan following Lincoln's death, Virginians were able to repeal the loyalty oath provision in the state constitution, allowing Alexandrians to return many former Confederates to city government in the elections of 1866 and 1867.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

RAMSEY FROM | 24

multiple sharp and potentially dangerous turns every time they use the garage?

Another contradiction: The city master plan for the redevelopment of this area stipulates that "each residential block should have safe and convenient access to play spaces for young children." The same plan also states that the open space "should be designed and located to allow effective supervision and surveillance from surrounding streets."

ARHA has instead suggested that the only play space for children in the development would be a built-out space on the roofs of the proposed buildings. The very nature of this concept prevents "effective supervision and surveillance." Additionally, any sort of guard rail, wall or fence that ARHA would need to install for playground's protection would not only be unsightly, but also make the proposed building taller than the city's own regulations permit.

These sorts of questions make me wonder: does ARHA think they can blatantly ignore residents' objections and city regulations alike? Do they expect us not to notice that what they have proposed violate the city's own rules, not to mention common sense? Can ARHA truly justify this out-of-control proposal to the residents of the Parker-Gray neighborhood?

- Mykhaylo Panarin
 Alexandria

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Do you think the city should spend almost \$23 million on a 50-meter pool at Chinquapin?

● 76% Yes.
 ● 24% No.

349 Votes

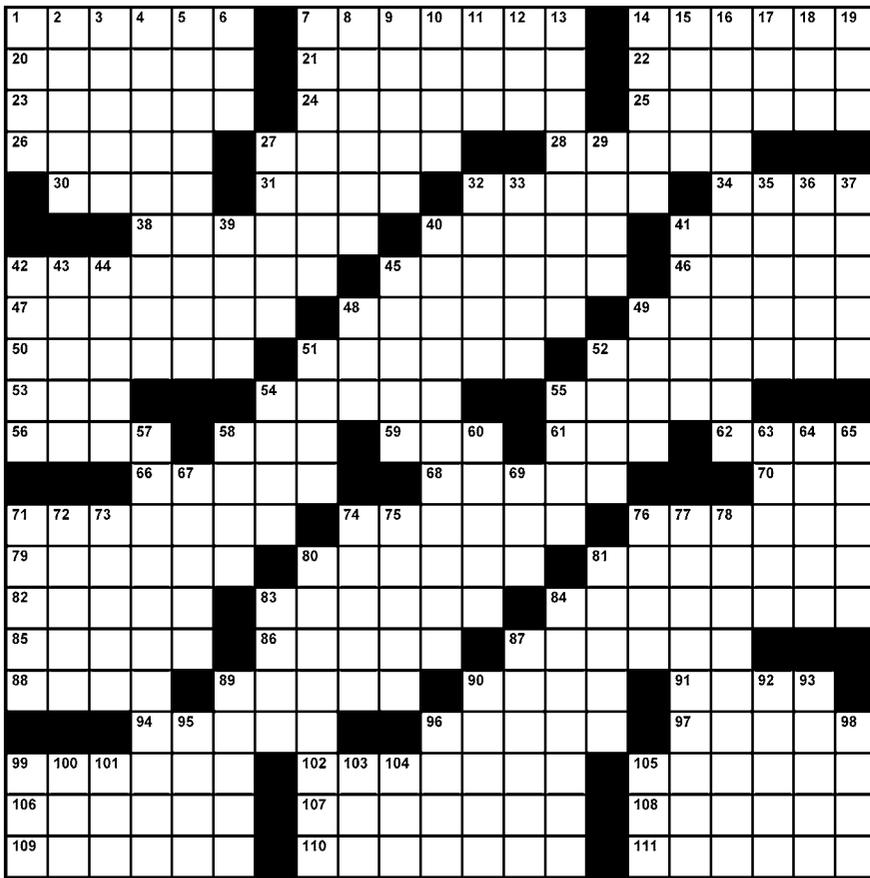
This Week

Should city council approve the plans for Ramsey Homes without more information about alternative options?

A. Yes.
 B. No.

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Weekly Words



CAKE FACTORY By Lewis Harper

ACROSS

- 1 Eats greedily (with "down")
- 7 Gets possession of
- 14 It rolls on a rollaway
- 20 Corrida celebrity
- 21 Nightgown material
- 22 Woolly beast
- 23 Together, as a married couple
- 24 Lake Ontario city
- 25 Big hammer
- 26 Big name in tractors
- 27 Mortise companion
- 28 Characteristic of a prophet
- 30 Spot on a schedule
- 31 Runs out
- 32 Loon kin
- 34 Charged particles
- 38 Fancy flapjacks
- 40 It takes off a lot
- 41 Food-wrap brand
- 42 Losing lawyer, sometimes
- 45 Apprehensive before a game
- 46 "King of the Hill" beer
- 47 Pancake cooking surface
- 48 Illogical fear
- 49 Water mover on a house
- 50 Hindu queens (var.)
- 51 Deprived of a rind
- 52 Neatest possible
- 53 Former capital of Japan
- 54 Actor Richard of "The Godfather"
- 55 Show to be false
- 56 Forever, so to speak
- 58 Road material, sometimes

DOWN

- 59 Took in solid food
- 61 Echidna's snack
- 62 Picket line pariah
- 66 Lift mechanically
- 68 Declares to be true
- 70 Metal-in-the-raw
- 71 Corrupt morally
- 74 Devices used on apples
- 76 Taxi signaler
- 79 Emulates an active volcano
- 80 Economizing
- 81 Legendary soul singer Otis
- 82 Kind of tube or ear
- 83 Breathing stoppages while sleeping
- 84 Turns into wine
- 85 Move like a crab
- 86 Not fit to be an NBA center
- 87 Deceptively coax
- 88 Dispense (with "out")
- 89 Piece of music?
- 90 "A ___ formality"
- 91 Goblet support
- 94 Half man, half goat
- 96 Swiss canton
- 97 Grain-storage sites
- 99 Down Under dweller
- 102 Slanted letters
- 105 Rogue or scoundrel
- 106 Tristan's companion
- 107 Macaroon flavoring
- 108 Sci-fi blockbuster of 2009
- 109 Courtroom figure
- 110 Small sofas
- 111 Yield, as to pressure

DOWN

- 1 Wall board
- 2 Ice cream holders
- 3 The Little Mermaid's name
- 4 Go back
- 5 International business mantra
- 6 Cover with turf
- 7 With greater frequency
- 8 Fair-haired ones
- 9 Roots used in poi
- 10 Unknown writer (Abbr.)
- 11 Lodge
- 12 Butterfly catcher's need
- 13 Nation once part of Yugoslavia
- 14 Hindu social group
- 15 "___ want for Christmas ..."
- 16 Neurology, cardiology, etc.
- 17 Small child
- 18 Ticker tape? (Abbr.)
- 19 "Norma ___" (Sally Field film)
- 27 Hide-bound home
- 29 All tucked in
- 32 English church land
- 33 Lightning-quick
- 35 Speak pompously
- 36 What Rudolph used to be called
- 37 Sound like a bull
- 39 Wings on buildings
- 40 Industrial workers, as a group
- 41 Mecca native
- 42 See eye to eye
- 43 Madrid museum
- 44 Attach, as a corsage
- 45 Fraternity letter
- 48 Popular White House souvenir

- 49 A lily's cover?
- 51 Rich wine
- 52 They split a 20
- 54 Bills and coins
- 55 Gold units
- 57 In a formless manner
- 58 Nervous twitches
- 60 ___ the score (gets revenge)
- 63 General Powell
- 64 "___ you ashamed?"
- 65 Arctic sightings
- 67 Bizarre
- 69 Small bit of work
- 71 Reason-based faith
- 72 "Sesame Street" regular
- 73 Ring-shaped cake
- 74 Camper carrier
- 75 Quite obvious
- 76 Roll-call word
- 77 Receptive or open
- 78 Like clones
- 80 Branch of geometry
- 81 Rebuff
- 83 Like volcanic fallout
- 84 Woodlands
- 87 Throw a lifeline to
- 89 Have the helm
- 90 Stephen King's home state
- 92 Put on cloud nine
- 93 Notorious Bugs
- 95 Campaign worker
- 96 Inky mess
- 98 Divide into piles
- 99 Be off one's feet
- 100 "Made in the ___"
- 101 Barnyard female
- 103 Podiatrist's concern
- 104 Play a role
- 105 Golf scoring standard

Obituaries

ELLEN C. BOHNSACK (96), of Alexandria, January 8, 2016

EDMUND N. CHRISTIAN, of Alexandria, February 6, 2016

CYNTHIA C. GWASH (53), of Alexandria, February 8, 2016

CHARLES R. KRAUS, formerly of Alexandria, February 20, 2016

BOON K. LEE (88), of Alexandria, February 8, 2016

JOSEPH E. MAZUR (81), of Alexandria, February 14, 2016

CHARLES G. MILLER (54), formerly of Alexandria, February 5, 2016

NORMAN C. NASH (97), of Alexandria, January 28, 2016

ANNE S. PAUL (75), of Alexandria, February 14, 2016

JAMES J. POWERS (94), of Alexandria, February 5, 2016

WILMER H. RARICK (72), formerly of Alexandria, February 11, 2016

BRUCE STONE (59), formerly of Alexandria, February 4, 2016

JOHN WEADON, formerly of Alexandria, February 15, 2016

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Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE



LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 -
7:30 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CITY HALL
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Information about these items may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666 or on the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning.

BZA Case #2016-0002 2509 Leslie Avenue

Public hearing and consideration of a request for variances for the front yard and side yard setbacks facing Leslie Avenue and Randolph Avenue to build a second story and rear addition. If the request is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a variance from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance relating to the physical enlargement of a non-complying structure; zoned: R2-5/Residential.
APPLICANT: Benjamin Lievestro



ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

OLD & HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2016 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2016-0026

Request to partially demolish and capulate at **512 N Columbus St.**
APPLICANT: Robert Hotaling

CASE BAR2016-0027

Request for alterations and an addition and waiver of rooftop mechanical screening at **512 N Columbus St.**
APPLICANT: Robert Hotaling

CASE BAR2016-0029

Request for alterations at **600 Wolfe St.**
APPLICANT: The Little Theatre of Alexandria

CASE BAR2016-0016

Request for complete demolition at **401-415 Wolfe St**
APPLICANT: Gregory and Candy Fazakerley

CASE BAR2016-0017

Request for alterations, new construction and a waiver of vision clearance at **401-415 Wolfe St**
APPLICANT: Gregory and Candy Fazakerley

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666.



ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PARKER-GRAY DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held by the Alexandria Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2016 beginning at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia on the following applications:

CASE BAR2015-0410

Request for alterations, an addition and a waiver of vision clearance at **1201 Cameron St.**
APPLICANT: David Robbins

Consideration of proposed updates to chapters of the Design Guidelines to reflect the 2012 Parker-Gray amendments.

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning and Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, VA 22314, telephone: (703) 746-4666.



The Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the FY 2017 Combined Funds Budget during the School Board Special Called Meeting held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Pl., Alexandria. For more information or to register to speak at the public hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8314 or email boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes a modification to an existing facility with tip heights of 134 feet on a building at 101 Calahan Street in Alexandria, VA (Masonic Memorial). In accordance with federal regulation 47CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACPH 36 CFR 800, parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856-809-1202, scotthorn@acerasociates.com) at ACER Associates, LLC at 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091.

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LEGAL NOTICE

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF 5123 CLINTON ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312

By virtue of and pursuant to the terms of a Deed of Trust dated May 28, 2010, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of **Fairfax County**, Virginia on June 7, 2010 as Instrument Number LR2010049629.001 (the "Deed of Trust") executed Jonathan Michael Babson, (the "Owner") originally to Daniel H. Borinsky, Trustee, and default having been made under the terms of the Deed of Trust and in the payment of the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust, and having been requested to do so by the current holder of the note evidencing the indebtedness secured by the Deed of Trust (the "Noteholder"), the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the main entrance of the Fairfax County Circuit Court courthouse located at 4110 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax, Virginia on **March 4, 2016 at 11:00 AM**, the property with improvements to wit:

Lot 46-A, Indian Springs, as the same is shown on a plat of resubdivision recorded April 7, 1976 in Deed Book 4378, at page 230, among the land records of Fairfax County.
Street address of the property: **5123 Clinton Road, Alexandria, VA 22312**

AND further described in the above Deed of Trust. (Tax Map No. 071-4-07-0046-A)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of \$60,000 will be required in cash, certified or cashier's check. Settlement within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Trustees may forfeit deposit. Additional Terms to be announced at sale.
Loan Type: Private.

Kevin M. Carson, Substitute Trustee, c/o Odin Feldman & Pittleman PC, 1775 Wiehle Ave., Suite 400, Reston, VA 20190

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Please contact us for more information on our listings or to discuss how we can help you achieve your real estate goals.



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